WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 12 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | APRIL 2001

Olympia Convention Center!

Where Will The Garden Grow?

Tristan Baurick

Except for one small corner, the lot on State Avenue is entirely empty.

Wide craters formed by long-standing rain are the only distinguishing feature of the lot.

Lifeless warehouses surround the 4 acres, as do old cars and boats with sun-bleached "FOR SALE" signs taped to dusty windows.

If Olympia builds a proposed multi million-dollar conference center, it will most likely be here. To take advantage of a state tax break, construction would have to begin by 2003. Proponents believe the center will add an estimated $12.8 million to the downtown economy and spark further development in an underutilized area of Olympia.

And in this open and desolate lot, little will be affected if construction begins, except for the spot on the southwest border.

Here cabbage grows. As do carrots, lettuce, onions, cucumber, squash and even tulips -- set to bloom.

Surrounded by planting boxes, Adams Axa pulls weeds and loosens soil as he does every week here at the Downtown Intergenerational Garden (DIG).

Today he maintains the tulip beds.

"These flowers," he says, "we donate to local churches. They make Sunday service look real nice."

For two years the DIG has provided a place for people to get their hands dirty and grow food for themselves and others. Six low-income gardeners maintain plots, while a host of local organizations grow crops for various uses.

Behind Axa, men bearing tired-looking rucksacks and bedrolls relax on shaded benches at the center of the garden. At 5:30, they head across the street for the evening meal at the Bread & Roses soup kitchen.

Inside, volunteers toss a vast salad with fresh lettuce grown in the garden. During the summer and fall about 300 pounds of the DIG's vegetables are served at Bread & Roses.

Many volunteer groups, including the Maria Art Studio Preschool, Girl Scouts, and STARS (Services to At Risk Seniors) donate time to maintain crop beds for the soup kitchen.

DIG's garden beds as seen from State Ave with the Port site in the background. *photo by Tristan Baurick*

Jessica Huntting, director of Bread & Roses' kitchen, says the DIG is a great help in providing fresh vegetables, especially since most donations are non-perishable foods.

Huntting also says Bread & Roses benefits from the DIG's close proximity.

"It's a great place for our guests to hang out and spend some time where it's quieter."

Huntting is uncertain how she feels about replacing the garden with the conference center.

"It could be good and it could be bad for us, I'm just not sure yet."

On the positive side, Huntting believes a nearby conference center may make Bread & Roses more visible and encourage volunteer participation. But, she says, this increased visibility could back-fire with Bread & Roses and those it serves becoming an unwelcome sight for the center's management and visitors.

Either way, Huntting remains optimistic.

"We'll miss the garden if it leaves, but if a conference center goes in, we'll make it work for us."

Garden Raised Bounty, the non-profit organization that stewards the DIG, understood since the beginning that the downtown garden wouldn't last forever.

"When we first started the garden we were aware this was a temporary site and pledged not to raise a ruckus when it was time to go," says Kim Gaffi, co-director of Garden Raised Bounty.

According to Clarita Mattox, who manages the site for the Port of Olympia, the State Ave. property is zoned for "marine, light industrial, or commercial office space". Though the garden is considered a non-conforming use of the site, the Port of Olympia agreed to a month-to-month lease.

Gaffi hopes to muster enough community support to find a permanent site in the downtown area. For Gaffi, location is just as important as the amount of food produced.

With its brightly painted signs and planting boxes full of leafy greens, the DIG is a regular sight for hundreds of commuters each day on State Ave, the main thoroughfare to Olympia's west side.

This visibility, Gaffi says, is the garden's greatest asset.

"More important than the actual productivity of the garden is its symbolic presence in our community," she says. "Urban dwellers must have some connection to their food sources if we are to ever have sustainable development in any shape or form."

Despite the DIG's uncertain future at its present location, Gaffi says she's excited about the prospect of this year's harvest.

"We're planning on having an incredible season whether it's our last one there or not." ◆

Genetic Engineering And Agricultural Sweatshops

Starbucks Or Frankenbucks?

WIP News Service

On March 20th, 2001, the day of the Starbucks annual shareholder meeting in Seattle, thousands of Fair Trade, environmental, and food safety activists took part in protests and leafleting events outside Starbucks cafes in over 100 cities across the US and Canada including a dozen activists at the downtown Olympia location. This unprecedented day of action was the start of the largest consumer campaign ever mounted against a major US food and beverage company around the issue of genetic engineering and agricultural sweatshops. In the coming months the campaign will be expanding in North America and also into Europe until Starbucks, which owns over 3,500 cafes worldwide agrees to:

- stop using genetically engineered (GE) ingredients in its products
- pledge to never use GE coffee
- to start brewing and actively promoting Fair Trade coffee in its cafes
- follow through completely and transparently on a previous agreement to improve the working conditions on the coffee plantations which supply them with coffee.

Consumer Warning

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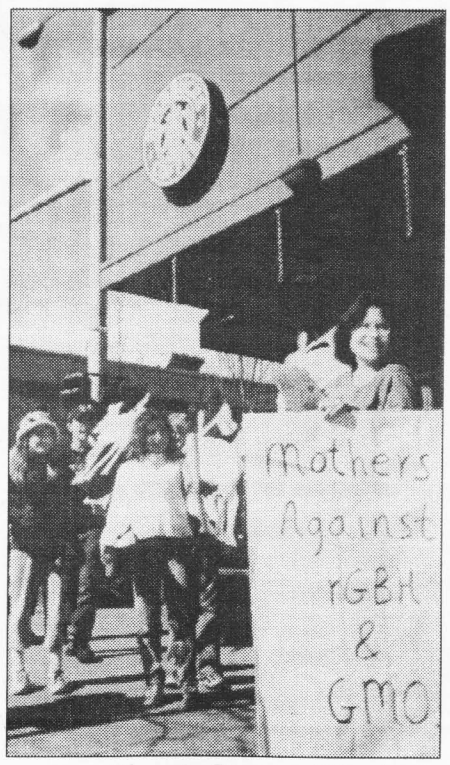

Olympia Protest of Starbucks
photo by Pat Tassoni

Here Are Some Things You Should Know About Starbucks

Despite promises made since 1995 to improve the wages and working conditions of impoverished workers on the coffee plantations of its suppliers in Guatemala and other nations, Starbucks has done little or nothing.

Although biotechnology corporations are currently field testing genetically engineered decaffeinated coffee beans, Starbucks has not taken a public stand on whether or not they intend to sell these GE coffee beans in the future.

Starbucks Or Frankenbucks

Get Starbucks to change its policies!

Call, write, fax or email Starbucks. Tell them to send you a written guarantee that they will change their policies on GE foods Fair Trade coffee, and wages and working conditions of coffee plantation workers, or else you will no longer buy their products.

Starbucks Contact Information:

Call: 800-235-2883 Fax: 206-447-3432
Email: osmith@starbucks.com
Write: Mr. Orin Smith, CEO
Starbucks Coffee Company
PO Box 34067
Seattle, WA 98124-1067

For more info or to get involved:

Organic Consumers Association
www.organicconsumers.org ◆

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

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The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Letters, briefs, etc.

Alaska Tax Refund Plan

Dear Editor:

If the economy really needs a boost to recover from a too-long series of interest rate hikes last year, let's use the Alaskan method on the national surplus and give **everyone** a check of **equal** amount.

What's the Alaskan plan? Oil found on State of Alaska lands produces income which goes to the State, and some of that income goes into a Permanent Fund, now about $30 billion. But the people **are** the State. So about half of Fund income goes back into the Fund to protect against inflation, and the other half of Fund income gets paid out in equal shares to each Alaskan man, woman, and child.

The surplus belongs to everyone, not just taxpayers, and certainly not more to people who pay more taxes. As the U.S. Supreme Court said in Zobel v. Williams, striking down a plan to pay more to people who'd lived in Alaska longer, we don't want to create "invidious distinctions" between citizens.

The same is true here. Let "equal" mean EQUAL. Pay out some part of the surplus in equal-dollar shares to each person, man, woman, and child. Each person is part of the nation. So distribute that national surplus equally. That's the Alaskan plan; let's make it the American plan, too.

Sincerely & cordially,
Joe Sonneman (1998 Democratic candidate for U.S. Senator for Alaska.)

KAOS Continues

Clearly, the "chaos at KAOS" is not over. Since I, in particular, have spoken publicly about the shady side of the current management clique at KAOS, and about their friends and allies at Pacifica, there seems to be an effort to focus on ME, as the cause of the problem. In fact, these same individuals are portraying me as the nemesis of all that is KAOS, which means what: that Management and friends ARE KAOS???

I can not respond to all their charges against me, as I have only seen one draft of one letter by a member of the KAOS inner-circle, in this case, Neva Reece.

I will respond to a few points that I have seen, though there is much more that can be said, especially about the particulars of who did what at KAOS.

*KAOS, as a station, has done little or nothing on behalf of embattled journalist Amy Goodman, nor about the "Christmas Coup" at WBAI in New York. It has not even tried to solicit listener input about taking a stand, as a station, for Amy and 'BAI. If KAOS Acting Manager Juli Kelen wrote a letter on her own behalf, that is a different matter entirely.

*When Program Manager Aleah Yung was hired, she stated, in my presence, that she did not listen to KAOS, and furthermore, had never listened to any community stations at all.

She was the only candidate proffered. Perhaps Management liked it that way...

*Ex-Station Manager Michael Huntsberger never said much publicly about his connections to then-Pacifica Director Lynn Chadwick, till a group of us confronted him at a Station Meeting, a year and a half ago. He then admitted that he was, quote "intimate", unquote, with her. Another Station Manager described Michael to me as "Lynn's shadow"!

Michael Huntsberger was a faithful follower of Chadwick's for most all of her ten years as head of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB), whether he admits it or not. During those

(Continued page 14)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
Friday, 20th

Proofreading Meeting
Monday, 23rd
6:30pm at Olympia Timberland Library
Everyone Welcome!

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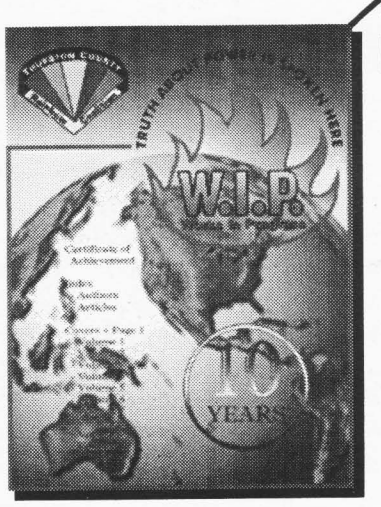

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APRIL 2001

The Democratic Party DEAD AS A DOORNAIL

- **In 1992, Democrats controlled the U.S. Senate 57-43, the U.S. House 258-176, and the country's governorships 30-18. Now the party has minority status.**
- **The Democratic Leadership Council (DLC, aka "Democrats for the Leisure Class"), created to weaken the power of unions, feminists and civil rights activists, receives moneys from corporations such as ARCO, Chevron, Du Pont, Philip Morris and Merck.**
- **Gore was a DLC founder; Joe Lieberman was the chairman last year, and Clinton was national chairman in 1991. One of the DLC's new members is Sen. Hilary Rodham Clinton.**
- **The party has no broad base due to turning on labor, environmental, consumer, and civil rights groups by passing NAFTA, ending AFDC, pumping up the Drug War, bombing the holy heck out of small countries, allowing record-breaking trade deficits, and on and on...**
- **In 1993-94, it was the Democrats who blocked campaign finance reform.**
- **So...it was a no-shocker when 36 'Democratic' senators, including Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, voted for the credit card/banking industry's bankruptcy 'reform' bill.**

"If I were a political consumer, I would—with apologies to the late Monty Python parrot—be going back to the store right about now and registering a complaint: "This political party—the Democratic Party. It's dead."

Robert Reich, Clinton's labor secretary

Sources: Jeff Cohen, *Democrats, Who Needs Them?*, 3.11.01, *Baltimore Sun; Commondreams.com*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **2000**: Talks between antitrust officials and Microsoft break down **2000**: Reno asks Americans not to politicize Elian case	**2** **1864**: Congress authorizes "In God We Trust" on all coins. **2000**: Elian's father is prepared to go to US to retrieve his son	**3** **1913**: Emmeline Pankhurst sent to prison for threatening violence **2000**: Yelm Planning commission approves eight-screen cinema	**4** **2000**: Anti-Castro demonstrators form human chain around Elian Gonzalez's house after rumors that US Gov. would take him away	**5** **2000**: Seattle: Ship w/ PCB-contaminated transformers docks **2000**: WA State threatens DOE w/penalties for lousy waste storage	**6** **2000**: Juan Gonzalez arrives in WA, DC **2000**: Seattle dock workers refuse to unload PCB-contaminated tranformers ship	**7** **2000**: Miami jury orders tobacco industry to pay 2 smokers $6.9 million; a third was not paid because of the statues of limitations
8 **1908**: Pres. Roosevelt announces requirement for equal railway accommodations for African-Americans in the South	**9** **1953**: NY State Grand Lodge bans racial/religious restrictions for membership **1996**: Clinton signs line-item veto	**10** **1946**: Japanese women are able to vote for the first time **2000**: Budd Inlet is closed to recreational coho salmon fishing	**11** **1995**: Environmentalists/timber workers rally at Capitol for continued funding of Jobs and Environment Watershed Restoration	**12** **2000**: Port of Olympia received $5.6 million for Cascade Pole site cleanup effort **2000**: Judy Wilson will not run for re-election	**13** **2000**: The Lacey City Council votes to allow same-sex and heterosexual couples to register their symbolic unions	**14** **2000**: Dow Jones plunges 617.78 points **2000**: Vili Fualaau, seeks damages for emotional suffering from Highline Schools
15 **1995**: Rally at Capitol protesting "Contract on America" **2000**: Locke calls the state legislators back for 2nd special session	**16** **2000**: After watching a tape of Elian, Juan Gonzalez accuses his Miami relatives of child abuse in turning his son against him	**17** **1961**:Bay of Pigs fiasco **2000**: Tumwater officials announce another well has been taken out of service due to chemical contamination	**18** **2000**: Pediatrician says Elian is being psychologically abused by his Miami relatives and should be removed immediately	**19** **2000**: Robert L Yates is arrested forSpokane/ Tacoma serial killings **2000**: US trade deficit hits a monthly record of 29.2 billion	**20** **1999**: PDC okays free Husky tickets for state legislators **2000**: Jet-skier struck by Coast Guard protecting Makah boat	**21** **1999**: Pentagon says it will guarantee military funerals to all honorably discharged veterans; annual cost will be 75 million
22 **2000**: Elian is taken from his Miami relative by force early in the morning and returned to his father in Washington DC	**23** **1963**: William Moore, a white man, is shot to death on Alabama road, while staging a one-man "Freedom Walk" against segregation	**24** **1968**: African-Americans occupy Boston University administration building to demand a black history major	**25** **2000**: Vermont becomes the first state to grant gay couples civil unions: provides most of the rights and benefits of marriage	**26** **2000**: 1000s of gallons of oil spill into Lincoln Creek, tributary of Chehalis River **2000**: Lyle Quasim retires as head of DSHS	**27** **2000**: Miami Mayor fires city manager who refused to fire police chief who didn't forewarn mayor of the Fed's raid to seize Elian	**28** **2000**: McCain on visit to Vietnam, claims the 'wrong guys' won war and questioned Vietnam's desire for closer relations w/ the US
29 **1999**: NATO strikes target the headquarters of the Yugoslavian army and the Yugoslavian federal interior ministry	**30** **1906**: 20 striking miners shot by state troopers in Pennsylvania **1997**: Ellen Degeneres comes out of the closet on television sitcom	*"They don't know where Al Gore is, or (even now) who he is...[Gore's] narrow, very un-Dukakis-like loss has not emboldened him but seemingly thrust him into the witness protection program."* **Frank Rich, *The Slumber Party*, 3.17.01, *NYTimes***				

Why live in Olympia and care about the Gifford Pinchot National Forest?

Sarah Vekasi

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is located in the western Cascade Range in Washington, south of Mount Rainier and north of the Columbia River. According to the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, a document that dictates the forest management practices of all federal public land in the west Cascades, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is supposed to provide enough ecological integrity and habitat for wildlife to sustain all of Southwest Washington, from just north of Olympia, west to the coast, and south to the Columbia River. That means that the health of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest can profoundly impact how healthy our ecosystem is here in Olympia.

Unfortunately, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is the industrial forest of Washington State. In the 1980s, there was more timber coming out of only one district in the Gifford Pinchot than any other forest in the lower forty-eight, rivaled only by the Willamette National Forest in central Oregon. This year alone there are **24 Timber Sales planned to log Ancient Old Growth Forests, many in non-inventoried Roadless Areas, in the Gifford Pinchot.** There is no excuse to log 300-year-old trees in this new century. Survey after survey shows that the general public is ready to stop logging public forests, but unfortunately the Forest Service is still operating under the old log-it-all paradigm. We need all the help we can get in ending the Old Growth Liquidation Program in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

The federal government has a long and sordid history in Washington State of logging old growth forests on public land and replacing them with monoculture tree-plantations. In the 1980s and early 1990s, environmentalists worked hard to highlight the atrocities taking place in the forest, primarily the forests near where the environmentalists lived: the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest north of Seattle and the Olympic National Forest on the Olympic Peninsula. The Fish and Wildlife Service had to step in during the mid-1990s to stop the clear cutting when scientists discovered that the Marbled Murrelet (a woodland shore bird that needs old growth habitat) as well as the spotted owl needed old growth forests in order to survive. In an attempt to prevent these species from becoming extinct, the courts forced the government to stop logging precious old growth on the coast and in interior forests, halting many timber sales.

The Forest Service changed their management practices in the Pacific Northwest in 1994 through a controversial compromise that selected Option 9 of the "Northwest Forest Plan." The press heralded the NW Forest Plan as bringing an end to old growth logging while creating a stable timber supply for mill owners. Unfortunately, the Forest Plan has done neither. Old growth logging has ceased only on the Mount Baker Snoqualmie and Olympic National Forests, but the sales that were planned on these forests have been relocated to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Southwest Washington. These sales are called "alternative volume" sales because they provide "alternative volume" for cancelled sales on the MBS and Olympic National Forests.

A good example of an *alternative volume sale* is the Goose Egg Timber Sale in the Mt. Adams District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This sale is 297 acres, 211 of which contain trees that are over 200 years old. The sale has 6.2 million board feet of timber and is in the last roadless area providing connectivity between the Indian Heaven Wilderness and the Big Lava Beds. Goose Egg Timber sale is only one example of an alternative volume timber sale that is destroying the last ancient forests of Washington. There are new sales being planned in the GP every year, targeting the last remaining native stands.

The health of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest can profoundly impact how healthy our ecosystem is here in Olympia.

Due to the amazing work of activists commenting on and appealing sales, pursuing litigation, and being out on the ground, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has not been able to cut any new sales for four years! This summer it looks like we are going to have to be ready to stop the logging on the ground and the streets – the public doesn't want to log old growth any more than you do, but most don't know that it is still happening on public land. It is time to stand up and say NOT A SINGLE OLD TREE CUT and NOT A SINGLE NEW ROAD BUILT in the Gifford Pinchot this summer and forever! ◆

Upcoming Events

For more information or to register contact the Gifford Pinchot Task Force at 360-753-4185 or gptf@olywa.net. To learn more about what is going on in the forest and how to get involved, attend some of these:

April 3rd from 6:00-8:00 PM the Gifford Pinchot Task Force is hosting a "State of the Forest" Address in Olympia to discuss what threats exist to our public lands in Southwest Washington, in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The meeting will include a slideshow about the threats to the Forest and a discussion about how people can get involved, and what you can do to stop Old Growth from being logged. Everybody welcome, wheelchair accessible, and free! Come to the Olympia Center at the corner of Columbia and State St. downtown Room 102. For more information contact: Gifford Pinchot Task Force at 360-753-4185 or write to gptf@olywa.net

April 5th-8th The Cascadia Activism and Ecology Conference at The Evergreen State College. For up to date information, please checkout the web site: http://cascadia.atdlogic.com
Sponsored by the TESC Environmental Resource Center, the conference will be comprised of panel discussions, keynote speakers, workshops and discussion groups that will create a forum for environmental scientists, activists and community members to network for the development of forest protection campaigns in the Cascadia bioregion. Throughout the conference, there will be a focus specifically on opportunities for upcoming summer campaigns in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest (South Central Washington Cascades). Work trade is encouraged and homestays are available in Olympia. No one will be turned away for financial reasons!

Presentations of interest include: Direct Action Techniques, First Aid for Mass Actions, Conservation Biology, Deep Ecology, Natural History Identification, Healthy Activist Lifestyles and Salmon Protection.

Keynotes and notable presenters include: Karen Coulter, Peg Millet, Nalini Nadkarni, Asante Riverwind, Delyla, Griz, 7Song and Robert Michael Pyle.

April 11th Volunteer Training/Orientation at our office at 7:00PM. Grassroots groups like the Task Force are as strong as volunteers make it. If you are interested in tabling, organizing events, leading hikes, making information brochures and flyers, organizing files or whatever...Please Come! Food will be provided. We are currently located at Media Island at 816 Adams, but we are moving. Our new location is still tentative so I will keep you informed and always feel free to call here or write e-mail.

April 14th HIKE in the Forest. Hike through Old Growth that is threatened by imminent logging. Location TBA. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Value Village Parking Lot in West Olympia at the corner of Division and Harrison. Carpool leaves right at 8:00! Call the Task Force at 360-753-4185.

April 28th HIKE! Same as above...

May 11th-13th The 5th Annual Gifford Pinchot Forest Conference. This gathering is where to find complete, comprehensive information about the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and join an ever-growing community throughout southwest Washington dedicated to protecting our forest. There will be workshops about timber sales, water quality monitoring, environmental education, fly-fishing and more!

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Up Front

Bigotry 202: Local Schools, 2 Incidents

Jerome Johnson

When I talk about racism and bigotry these days, one of the most common responses I get from white people is, "Why are you still so upset about this? It hardly exists any more." From straight people: "Well, it doesn't affect me so I don't know why gays and lesbians are always making such a big deal." Besides my regular audience, this article is specifically directed at those people, so they can see for themselves just how bigotry works in Olympia, 2001.

The first incident was about racism. I have a white and straight friend/coworker, with whom I've been discussing civil rights for nearly a decade. I'll call him Bubba. We don't always agree, but we always learn and grow from our discussion. Racism in 21st century in America — and especially Olympia — has always been hard for him to grasp. "I know it happens sometimes," he says, "but I just don't see it." And he's not in denial — he's being honest. He really doesn't see it.

Well, racism came home to Bubba in a major way last week, and he didn't like it at all. He called me, very angry and upset. "What's going on?" I asked.

"You're not gonna believe this," he fumed. "Some other dumbass kid called my son and his friend a nigger, so he called the other boy a cracker back, and now the high school wants to suspend my son!"

"I believe it," I said. "Aren't they going to suspend the white kid?"

"It doesn't sound like it," Bubba snarled. "Jerome, I need a favor. I know you do all kinds of civil rights stuff. Would you mind coming with me to the school and going to the conference with the school staff, my son and I? This is not fair,especially if just my son gets suspended. I can even live with both my son and the white guy getting suspended, but not just my son. Can you meet me at the school in an hour?"

I paused. I was outside at the time, basking in the gorgeous spring weather and looking forward to puttering around in my garden. I couldn't help but get angry myself. Once again, racism had reached out with an effort to fuck up my whole morning. "I'll be there, but I don't know what I can do," I said, to Bubba's relief. "We'll have to find out what the school's or the district's policy is and go from there."

Well, I drove out to the school and met Bubba. It's a nice school, but not too diverse, owing mainly to its location. From our job, Bubba and I knew one of the counselors dealing with the problem. The parent of Bubba's son's friend was there too, but not the alleged culprit. While we were waiting we ran into the assistant principal, whom we also knew. He's a good guy, but his initial hands-off approach surprised both of us. "I don't know much about this situation, and if I get involved now it may stir things up too much," he said.

Hmmmm, I thought, as my mouth smiled and accepted this. It sounded logical, but...

We sat down in a conference room and talked it over. Bubba's temper had come down to a boil. The first thing I did was to listen as both students described their experieces. Then I asked the staff about policy.

They were clearly uneasy—even though one is a person of color. "We have a zero tolerance policy," she said, "and we're working on this." We pressed for specifics — just HOW would this be handled? — but getting them was hard.

Finally I said, "When I was boy going to Garfield more than 30 years ago, this same thing — and worse — happened to me all the time. When my mother went to the school officials about it, she got the same level of non-response we're getting now."

The other parent added, "We just want to know what the procedure is."

Well, tension in the room went up a little — but the ice had been broken.

Candidly, the staff discussed school policy, options, and their procedures. All of us emphasized to the students the need to USE the procedure to resolve conflicts. On their part, the staff acknowledged a need to make the zero tolerance policy clearer to the student body, and to communicate better internally. The students asked for the dispute to be mediated, the original culprits got discipinary action no one was suspended, and all of us left the meeting feeling much better than when we'd entered it. As I shook hands with the staff people, I said, "Thank you. We accomplished more in an hour than my mother was able to in five years."

She smiled. Bubba wanted to hug me but thankfully restrained himself.

A few days later, I was sitting in the principal's office in a different local school. One of the youth had gotten himself into trouble. Another kid had called him a "fag" and my youth had gotten himself suspended for asking the other kid into the bathroom to "settle" the matter. We worked the problem; don't ask how I punished the youth. But while I was driving home, I though about how these two separate but hateful incidents could have caused a school shooting — one of the biggest common denominators is students being abused by other kids, and "snapping." In the larger context I thought about how bigotry dehumanizes people — often to the point where it "becomes okay" to hurt and even kill people. "My" youth's homophobia was an example: in bigoted "thinking", a "fag" is "less" than a man/person because they don't represent the stereotype of "manhood". In this twisted "thinking", a "man" is someone physically strong, eats meat and drinks everything, and is above all overpoweringly heterosexual. I can change the youth's behavior — changing his attitude is much more difficult.

In the larger context I thought about how bigotry dehumanizes people — often to the point where it "becomes okay" to hurt and even kill people.

But these are just two of the forms racism and homophobia take in modern America, the Olympia of 2001.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban destroy priceless ancient art while the people fight starvation in the harsh winter.

In Korea, Pres. Kim Dae JUnbg continues his reunification efforts.

In Mexico, Lt. Cmdr. Marcos snubs negotiations with the government.

And in Gig Harbor, a community celebrates its power — Fred Meyer has succumbed and won't build an unwanted superstore in their town. ◆

If Earth's population were shrunk into a village of just 100 people-with all the human ratios existing in the world still remaining what would this tiny, diverse village look like?

by Philip M. Harter, MD
Stanford School of Medicine

57 would be Asian
21 would be European
14 would be from the western hemisphere
8 would be African
52 would be female
48 would be male
70 would be nonwhite
30 would be white
70 would be non-Christian
30 would be Christian
89 would be heterosexual
11 would be homosexual
6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth, and all 6 would be from the United States.
80 would live in substandard housing
70 would be unable to read
50 would suffer from malnutrition
1 would be near death
1 would be pregnant
1 would have a college education
1 would own a computer

More facts:

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more fortunate than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are fortunate, as more than three billion people in the world cannot.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the people in this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you can read this message, you are more fortunate than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

REALITY CHECK

Now is the time to get children and their families out of poverty. Invest my tax dollars into programs that maintain a safety net for families and provides them the tools to work out of poverty. If not now, when?

I urge you to support the specific proposals on the other side of this check.

105

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Focus On The Children

Sandra Smith

On August 1 of this year a new licensed childcare center opened here in downtown Olympia called Focus On The Children. At the FOCUS Center, childcare is provided at no cost to homeless parents with very small children. The FOCUS program was opened to provide an alternative to the current childcare options (and lack there of) provided by state vouchers and subsidies. Those of us who founded the program recognized that it was time to ask the real experts-homeless and low- income parents-how to best design a program to meet their needs. We listened to what parents told us was missing within the current services in place and then customized the FOCUS program to meet their expressed needs.

Every family's needs and goals differ. Parents made it clear that in our community, as in most, traditional social services, by design, are tending to prevent any positive progress their family is trying to make. Parents find themselves regularly trudging through piles of paperwork and time consuming processes just to provide for their child's basic needs: food, diapers, formula. This process drains a family of their time, energy, and frequently, their dignity, leaving little or no time to make positive changes for themselves and their children.

State childcare vouchers for homeless families provide childcare for 30 days or so. Yet we found out in our work together with homeless parents, that they need a minimum of three to six months to adequately transition from homeless-to housed-to 20 hours a week employment. Once employed 20 hours per week, subsidized child care is available through the state. There are few options to help support parents if they desire to further their education. At FOCUS, we offer no cost childcare and encourage parents to be with us for a full 6 months. The amount of time they need, the amount of time they deserve.

Since at FOCUS, we provide one on one attention for each child and work together with parents to support their children's developmental needs, parents have felt very comfortable leaving their children at the FOCUS center each day as they venture out and find their life path-that path is chosen by the parents themselves. The goals parents set and the nature of the changes they make in their lives are very personal decisions. Who are we to judge which path is the best for another to take? Yet when experiencing traditional social services, parents report being demeaned and very harshly judged. They are often lead in pre-determined directions by those in positions of power, who blatantly disregarding the right of each parent to choose for themselves and their children.

The parent support program at FOCUS belongs to and is designed by the parents enrolled in the FOCUS program. We all work together sharing information and creating a sense of community. We get to know each other. Hot coffee, tea, cocoa, and a snack breakfast is offered in a comfortable parent lounge every morning. Every Monday night, staff and volunteers serve a home cooked sit-down dinner. We all enjoy a meal together and join parents in celebrating the many challenges that they have overcome during the week. Speakers come in, too. We watch educational videos, but the parents choose the subject matter themselves. Parents are encouraged to design and present workshops, too, once they feel comfortable doing it. All the parents enrolled at FOCUS find a way to participate, use their special talents, and become a working member of the program. As relationships are formed, parents support one another.

Currently, we enroll 4 children and their families at a time at FOCUS. We have found that it is better to offer adequate, high quality support to a few families, rather than offering just barely enough to greater numbers of families, as in most social services concerned about "the numbers." I am weary of hearing that "It's all about numbers. Social services has been about giving little to many for decades, now examine the results. The economy is thriving, yet poverty among our nation' children is ever increasing. At FOCUS, it's not about numbers. It's about people, it's about children, it's about community and about caring for one another. And it's about providing an opportunity to local families to make long term, sustainable changes.

Since arriving in Olympia in 1997, I have experienced first hand a fierce attitude of competition between many of the local non-profits serving children and families. If this inappropriate competitive energy was channeled instead into sincere cooperation on behalf of underserved children in our community, and if we can as a community, come out of our collective denial and face the fact that the programs that are now in place are not working in the long haul, only then can we create true community and level the playing field for all.

We want to reach parents with small children seeking no cost licensed child care who are willing, at the same time, to help us learn how to best design and re-designed the FOCUS program in order to conform to their ever changing needs.

FOCUS has been highly criticized because we accept NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING. We need only to consider Governor Gary Locke's latest proposal to cut health and dental care for underserved children and families in this state to see a perfect example of why we must hold to the philosophy of no government funding. Underserved children and families have no friend in the Governor's mansion. And if Locke is willing to balance the budget on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens—at the expense of their future, is he a friend to any of us?

The work at Focus On The Children is designed to remind us all that we are responsible for one other -- that is what true community means. Those of us in a position of privilege have an opportunity, and a responsibility to make a difference...not just talk about it, and not leave this crucial work up to those entities that continue to drop the ball. There are hundreds of supporters of FOCUS who really get it. We are grateful to them. They recognize that the needs of any homeless family and their children are immediate and crucial needs-they recognize that there is value in working outside the system- they are willing to admit that the system isn't working for everybody. All of us at FOCUS commend and are allies with WROC and other organizations and individuals who work tirelessly to make changes in the system. They are making progress every day. But what happens to the children and families who are slipping through the cracks in the meantime? That is why FOCUS is here -- that is why we will stay.. .that is why we must grow.

This quote from the book *All We Had Was Each Other* by Don Walker. The Black Community of Madison, Indiana says it all: "This Black community was created by the character of its people; and, in turn, the character of the people was sustained by the nature of the community down through the years. This is what true community does. It creates and sustains a legacy of character -- a set of values that the members of the community inherit, honor and enact in their lives."

Elsie Perry Payne speaks of the community of Madison, Indiana, "We really did have despite all our deprivations, everything we really needed. We cared for each other. We really helped each other. We belonged to each other. Maybe someday all people can have that. Maybe someday we can all be one caring family. That's what we had. We really had something! We had each other.

We are hoping that this article will help reach those in the community, who by their nature, will want to be a part of Focus On The Children. We want to reach parents with small children seeking no cost licensed child care who are willing, at the same time, to help us learn how to best design and re-designed the FOCUS program in order to conform to their ever changing needs.

We aren't looking to the big funders to support this effort long term. We are looking to one another. If all of us who really believe in the value of this work come together in numbers, we can keep doing this work, and each and every one of us will benefit. For more information contact Sandra or Holly at 705-8599. ◆

(fill out check on other side and mail to address on this side)

It is time for our kids. Washington voters agree we need to get children and their families out of poverty and into successful lives now. We know our future depends on theirs. I urge you to support:

Extending time limits – It is not the time to say to children and their families who are on welfare "your time is up". We have the time to give families the tools they need to succeed and for others who are unable to get a job, maintain a safety net. *Make time limits more fair and flexible by: 1) providing extensions for victims of domestic violence beyond the 20% allowed under federal law and 2.) allow an exemption from the time limit for working families.*

Expanding access to education and training for low-income people – Give parents the tools and jobs they need to work out of poverty. Early investments pay off and lead working families into success. A recent poll of Washington Voters showed that 78% support training programs for low-income parents. Invest in families by, *allowing two years of education and training under WorkFirst without work requirements and provide child care.*

Making child care more affordable and accessible – Working families are making the effort to make ends meet. Currently low-income families pay up to 16% of their monthly income just on child care co-pays alone! This is much more than many families can afford. In addition, the state subsidy for providers is so low that they are forced to limit the number of low-income children they can enroll, therefore making the availability of child care limited. It is time to give parents the tool of child care they need to work their way out of poverty. *Invest in families and provide stable care for children in poverty and help to build stronger families by, 1) setting the subsidized child care co-payment at no more than 10% of a families income and 2) setting the child care subsidy rate at no less than 80th percentile based on the 2000 rate survey*

Improving the budget to meet the needs of poor families – It is time to get children and their families out of poverty, whether we use existing resources more wisely or make new investments, it is time our tax dollars help them succeed. A strong majority of Washington voters are willing to have their tax dollars used to help low-income parents and children. *Invest in families by, 1) not cutting funding for human services, 2) adjusting cash assistance level to meet the cost of meeting needs, 3) maintaining the adult dental and vision programs, 4) maintaining the General Assistance Unemployable (GA-U) and Medically Indigent Programs, and 5) expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to cover parents.*

Return to: Statewide Poverty Action Network PO Box 31151 Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 694-6794 span@fremontpublic.org

C H I L D R E N

by Frank Hoffman

There is the concept that there are deserving poor and undeserving poor, and the two groups should not be treated the same or receive the same sympathy for the same socio- economic condition. The deserving poor are those that try but are defeated. They work then are laid off by their employer through no fault of their own, for example. They work and become ill and unemployable: then poor.

The undeserving poor are seen as drunks or addicts, for example. They choose to have an addiction which leads to their socio - economic downfall. The mentally ill who are poor, and often homeless, are often seen as in some middle ground between being deserving and undeserving.

The deserving can be given government aid to help them survive. Charities seek them out. The undeserving are ignored, except by the police, who are told to keep them out of sight.

College students seem to be a special case. They are being warehoused until there are jobs for them. They are often poor and are deserving because they are aimed at jobs, and this is a main justification for public education - the preparation of a competent workforce. Some slacking is tolerated of the college students, some partying and pranks, but they are expected to enter a 30 year march in the labor market soon after they graduate (so they can start paying back those loans.)

Then there are infants and children, who are living at home, cared for, supervised by, a parent or parents. We don't seem to make judgements about children, whether they are deserving or not. We essentially expect them to be quiet and cute and to be huge retail markets, but the society gives them some grace, unless they get involved with drugs that are not sanctioned by the government. Then the police are asked to get them out of sight.

We do seem to make the judgement about their parents, if their parents should become low income people and need help. The United States has more low income children than any other industrialzed country. And this is the case, in part, apparently, because of the societal judgements made about the parents. The children suffer.

I think what I have described so far is simply the case: it is not really opinion. Controversy developes around whether this deserving/undeserving judgement is appropriate.

What if we just focus on the children. What if we don't talk about causes of poverty or whether the rich are undeserving of a disproportionate amount of societal resources, or whether a single Mom who is not in the workforce is bad.

Does a society owe anything to its children, to its future? Children have no power, except lung power, in the middle of the night. They are helpless. Aren't we responsible to them as well as for them? Well, I suppose you could say, if it ain't my kid, it ain't my responsibility. We are referred back to the parents again. But let's just focus on the children.

We are here because of our ancestors. And they go a long way back. Maybe to a first person, who we so far have identified as a woman - Lucy. Have we discharged our responsibility to those ancestors once we reproduce, once we help create a next generation and pass our genes along? We ordinarily do not think of ourselves as part of a species, a kind of mammal at the top of a food chain that begins with plankton. We think of ourselves, most of us maybe, as outside that animal/ living things continuum. We are more important and dignified than the other living species. Our culture tells us so. Our very self - consciousness seems to elevate us. What if that aversion is simply denial? And we are inside nature, not outside it, observing it.

Do we have a responsibility to our ancestors as a group? That is, not just to the parents of our parents, and so on, but to the mass of beings that spilled us in front of our tv sets. To all the human beings who lived before us? Do we owe them something we have not been providing for a long time, for hundreds of years? If we, right now, are at the end of a living chain that stretches back to Lucy, what do those beings call upon us to do, just regarding our chilren? Be indifferent or minimalist toward our young? Or to exalt them? (not envy them) To create a world of peace for them, that praises life, all life. Not a safe, controlled world - that is not possible. Instead, are we asked, each of us, to be part of a world that creates a harmony which is more beautiful and enthralling in each generation. Do our ancestors and the future make this call upon us?

If we are part of nature and if we are connected to all the human beings behind us and before us, how would we treat our children? As a tribe (thank you, John), as a society, would we punish our young because their parents are poor? Or because the mother refuses to work outside the home? If we were able to make these connections to our earth and to our ancestors and descendants, wouldn't we change the daily world of our children in profound ways? Brilliant, joyful ways!

And perhaps women and men share this responsibility to children and this shared responsibility should make men and women equal. This responsibility for putting children first.

Where does the idea of deserving or undeserving parents come from? What vision of life and human beings promotes it? ◆

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The Pacifica Crisis:

An Interview with Juan Gonzalez

John Tarleton

The former co-host of Democracy Now! talks about why he recently resigned from that show to help lead a nationwide campaign to oust the Pacifica Foundation's national board. Juan Gonzalez is an award winning journalist and until recently, was the twice a week co-host of Democracy Now!, Pacifica Radio's popular morning news show. His dramatic on-air resignation on January 31 reflected the deepening crisis at Pacifica.

He vows to return someday but only after Pacifica's national board has been cleansed of the "corporate vultures" he accuses of hijacking the nation's only independent, listener sponsored radio network. Gonzalez, who was flooded with thousands of emails in the wake of his departure, has launched a nationwide effort (www.pacificacampaign.org) to unseat the Pacifica board and have it reconstituted along democratic lines. "No power sharing with these folks," he says. "They will soon find out this is a listener sponsored radio network."

Gonzalez, author of *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico and grew up in a New York housing project. He is a veteran of many social struggles from Columbia '68 to the bitter 1990-91 strike at the *New York Daily News*, where he is a staff columnist.

Gonzalez attended the Pacifica board's March 3-4 meeting in Houston. It was a tumultuous weekend of rallies, protests, teach-ins and walkouts and he spoke at the MECA Community Center and the Unitarain Universalist Church on back-to-back nights. He encouraged Pacifica supporters to "cut off the water and turn up the heat" on board members until they step down.

JT: Why have you chosen a more militant, direct action approach to resolve this crisis instead of solely relying on legal remedies?

JG: These legal battles have been going on a couple of years. In the meantime, the Pacifica Board is creating a reality on the ground. They are systematically purging many of the stations of the most vocal, dissident and progressive programmers. If we don't do something soon, by the time the legal battles are won the network will have been dramatically changed for the worst.

What I believe is if we have an all-out campaign to cut off the money and to put pressure on the board members to resign, we can achieve success in this battle in a much shorter period of time. That's why I'm urging people not to give any money to Pacifica, to any of the stations, until this board is out and a structure for choosing a democratically accountable board is in place.

JT: Why did you leave Democracy Now! At the time you did? And, what was Amy Goodman's reaction when you told her?

JG: I had been telling Amy for several weeks that I was thinking of doing it. What finally made me do it was when a week before my resignation the new station manager (Utrice Leid of WBAI radio) announced a new gag order threatening to fire anybody who dared to say anything on the air about the continuing Pacifica struggle. I felt at that point I couldn't work under that situation. But if I was going to resign, I should think it out carefully and figure out the most effective way to do it.

That's why I waited a week until I could plan it out and talk to some other people so that we could get the message out not only to the five Pacifica stations but all the affiliates. As a result we've got thousands of responses from all around the country from people who heard that short statement on the air.

JT: In your work with Democracy Now!, what kind of impact do you think that show has had in recent years?

JG: I think it's had enormous impact. When we went to Seattle to do daily coverage of the WTO protests, there were a tremendous number of young people who told us on the street and in the meetings that they first learned that the protests were coming and got an idea of how to get involved from listening to Democracy Now! That's when we began to realize the enormous impact the show was having in keeping all of the growing number of anti- globalization protesters in touch with each other just by listening to the show on a daily basis.

I think it's having an enormous impact on young people, especially. Pacifica is saying that the people who listen to the show are 50- year-old white men and that they (the board) want diversity. The reality is that Democracy Now! Has enormous diversity in terms of young people and people of color. And instead of trying to build that up, they are trying to tear it down.

JT: What are some of the organizing experiences you've had that give you the confidence that you can pull this off?

JG: I've been involved in so many different battles. Not only in the Columbia student strike (of 1968), (and) in the Young Lords. In the New York Daily News we had a 5-month strike with 2,500 workers between 1990-91 that we won. But, the company was pulling the same line: we're either going to break your unions or we're going to sell off the paper. They tried to scare the workers into thinking they were going to lose their jobs. And in 1978, I was involved in a huge campaign in Philadelphia to get rid of Frank Rizzo in a voter referendum and hundreds of thousands of people were involved in that movement. And there's a few other labor strikes that I've been involved in that all involved thousands of people. This battle is not as tough because the listeners of Pacifica are all intelligent, sophisticated activists. They all know how to wage battles of this type.

JT: You referred to the board last night as "3rd rate capitalists".

JG: Third-rate instruments of capitalism because they are not all capitalists themselves.

JT: What do you think of the way they tend to use the race card to divide people?

JG: I hit them directly on that today.

JT: You sure hit a nerve with Bertram Lee

JG: I saw they had to hold him down. He must be the source of it, obviously. But, I think it's despicable the way they have attempted to use race to try to divide the Pacifica community. There's no doubt there's racism in American society. There's racism among many Pacifica listeners and programmers. But, the principle contradiction that is occurring here is that a group of neo-liberal oriented folks have gotten together with a bunch of comprador African-Americans to throw smokescreens up while they do a classic corporate grab of the Pacifica Network. Anybody with any sort of small understanding of how race has been used in American society can see through this scam. We have to confront it head on. And, we've got to educate people not to be taken in by what they are attempting.

JT: Assuming you succeed in this struggle to restore a grassroots Pacifica, where do you see the network fitting into this larger movement for a democratic media both in the US and around the world?

JG: Pacifica has the potential to be the anchor of the movement. But, as people are saying, the movement is much bigger. These Independent Media Centers have enormous potential. The public access movement within cable television, the alternative radical press, the alternative African-American and Latino press. There's a huge alternative press movement out there even though it needs to be better coordinated. But, Pacifica is the most valuable asset within that overall structure.

The Indy Media people didn't even want to have Pacifica within their structures. They only made an exception for Democracy Now! They had already made a decision that Pacifica had gone corporate. The Indy movement is the new generation. And those young kids are phenomenal. They are the next generation of journalists in the country. We have to nurture them and help them and learn from them as well.

JT: What originally inspired you to become a journalist? What's your vision.

JG: That's a whole other thing. I'd rather not get into it tonight. The main thing is understanding the critical role the mass media play in American society. We need the independent media as well as the good progressive people that are in the corporate media. There's got to be a battle in corporate media. You just can't give up all that space. There's got to be a battle in corporate media to mount resistance from within while we help to build the independent media from without.

John Tarleton is an independent web journalist whose stories and interviews appear at:www.cybertraveler.org. ◆

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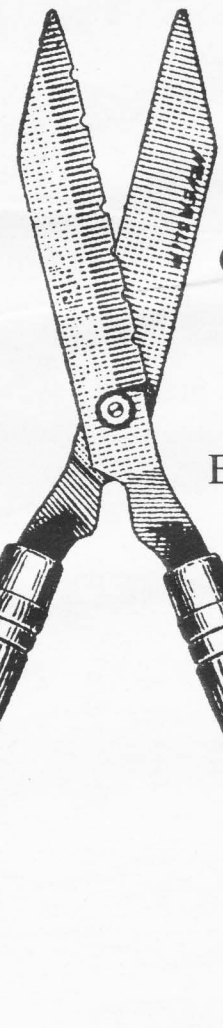

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NAFTA + WTO = Free Trade Area of the Americas

Don Lane

The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is the effort of the 34 countries of the Americas and Caribbean, with the exception of Cuba, to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) across the hemisphere. However FTAA goes well beyond NAFTA in its power and scope. There are nine working groups dealing with the following subject areas: services, investment, government procurement, market access, agriculture, intellectual property rights, subsides, anti-dumping and countervailing duties, competition policy and dispute settlement.

Per standard operating procedure big corporations and lobby groups have played a key role in this process. Over 500 corporate representatives have security clearance and access to FTAA documents. With the failure of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) there is great pressure to get the FTAA done. The next ministerial-level summit is set for April 2001 in Quebec City. Some countries want to see FTAA implemented in 2005 although some have suggested 2003 depending on what happens in Quebec City.

NAFTA's Legacy

It's estimated that over a million U.S. jobs have been lost since NAFTA, as companies relocated to Mexico to take advantage of the weaker labor standards. These workers usually find jobs with less security and wages that are about 77% of what they originally had.

The U.S. trade surplus with Mexico has become an $18.6 billion deficit. Despite promises of increased economic development throughout Mexico, only the border region has seen intensified industrial activity. Yet even this small "gain" has not brought prosperity. Over one million more Mexicans work for less than the minimum wage of $3.40 per day today than before NAFTA, and during the NAFTA period, eight million Mexicans have fallen from the middle class into poverty.

In addition, the increase of border industry has created worsening environmental and public health threats in the area. Along the border, the occurrence of some diseases, including hepatitis, is two or three times the national average, due to lack of sewage treatment and safe drinking water. The FTAA is based on the following "Objectives and Principles" to include:

*economic integration of the hemisphere
*promotion of the integration of capital markets
*consistency with the World Trade Organization (WTO)
*elimination of barriers and non-tariff barriers to trade
*elimination of agricultural export subsidies
*elimination of barriers to foreign investment
*a legal framework to protect investors and their investments
*enhanced government procurement measures
*new negotiations on the inclusion of services

Services

This will impact all levels of government action in relation to services to include: health care,child care, education at all levels, museums, postal services, publishing, energy, water, and environmental services to name but a few. All investors and corporations from all FTAA countries must be treated the same as domestic and local service providers. Countries will face measures which will restrict their ability to deny access to service providers. Most favored nation treatment must be granted to investors/corporations from all FTAA countries if this status is granted to any other FTAA country. For the first time transnational service corporations will have competitive rights to the entire range of government service provisions and will have the ability to sue any governments that object for financial compensation.

With the failure of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) there is great pressure to get the FTAA done. The next ministerial-level summit is set for April 2001 in Quebec City.

Investment

The mandate is to establish a fair and transparent legal framework to promote investment through the creation of a stable and predictable environment that protects the investor, his/her investment and related flows, without creating obstacles to investment from outside the hemisphere.

This builds on NAFTA which allows a corporation to sue a government directly if any laws, policies or practices impinge on the right of the affected corporation. One example of this, Sun Belt Water Inc. of California, is suing the Canadian government for $14 billion after British Columbia banned the export of bulk water, which prevented Sun Belt from getting into the water export business in that province. The FTAA will allow corporations to move their personnel across borders outside of the normal immigration process. It will limit the right of a country to place performance requirements on foreign investment. This is an attempt to implement portions of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment(MAI) which was recently defeated.

Government Procurement.

The FTAA will open all government contracts, services and goods to competitive bidding from other countries' corporations. This would include measures against favoring local or national suppliers, setting domestic content standards or imposing community investment rules.

Market Access

The mandate is to select a method and time table for the elimination of all remaining tariffs and non-tariff barriers and agree on the pace of these reductions. Tariffs are border taxes with non-tariff barriers being all the rules, policies, and practices which impact on trade. This could include laws protecting the health and safety of a country's citizens and delivering of services. This ties in to the WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade which requires a nation to prove if challenged that its environmental and safety standards are both necessary and the least restrictive way to achieve the desired conversation goals, food safety or health standards.

Agriculture

The mandate is to eliminate agriculture export subsidies affecting trade in the hemisphere and other measures such as sanitary and phytosanitary practices which could be construed to restrict trade. The WTO agreement on SPS has been used to challenge the precautionary principle which allows regulatory action when there is a risk of harm, even if there is scientific uncertainty about the extent and nature of the potential impact of a product. This will have great impact on individual governments as they act to set standards in areas of health, food safety and the environment.

Intellectual Property Rights

The mandate is to reduce distortions in trade in the Hemisphere and promote and ensure adequate and effective protection to intellectual property rights.

Intellectual Property Rights refers to types of intangible property such as patents which generally grant their holders an exclusive power. All FTAA countries are now subject to the WTO agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights(TRIPS). It allows patenting of plants and animals as well as seeds. TRIPS has been used to prevent developing countries from providing generic, cheaper drugs to treat AIDS patients. These rules also allow companies to bioprospect and lock down patents for traditional medicines that are considered to be traditional knowledge, effectively robbing indigenous people of their cultural heritage to fatten corporate profits.

Subsidies, Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties

The mandate is to examine ways to deepen existing disciplines provided by the WTO. The WTO sets limits on what governments may and may not subsidize.

The WTO has been strongly criticized by many developing countries as favoring the northen countries and large agribusiness. Interestingly enough, The WTO exempts military and related national security industry from challenge.

Competition Policy

The mandate is to guarantee that the benefits of FTAA liberalization process not be undermined by anti-competitive business practices. The negotiating group has agreed to advance toward the establishment of juridical and institutional coverage at the national, sub-regional or regional level, that prescribes the carrying out of anti-competitive business practices, and to develop mechanisms that facilitate and promote the development of competition policy and guarantee the enforcement of regulations on free competition among and within the countries of the Hemisphere. The basic goal is to reduce or eliminate practices that appear to protect domestic monopolies. The not-so-ironic outcome is that large transnational companies gain access to smaller domestic companies in order to develop a new monopoly which is then protected by WTO agreements such as TRIPS and Financial Services Agreement.

Dispute Settlement

The mandate is to establish a fair, transparent and effective mechanism for dispute settlement among FTAA countries and to design ways to facilitate and promote the use of arbitration and other alternate dispute settlement mechanisms, to solve private trade controversies in the framework of the FTAA.

At this time it is not clear which dispute settlement mechanism they will pursue, the NAFTA or WTO model. The NAFTA model allows the losing country to either accept the ruling and offer appropriate compensation to the other government, or risk retaliation of equivalent benefits. The WTO model is to decide if the disputed practice is a barrier to trade and to overturn the offending practive or law. The losing country must decide to change its law to conform to the WTO ruling, pay permanent cash compensation to the winning country or face harsh, permanent trade sanctions from the winning country. If a developing country with limited export opportunities faces these sanctions, the results are devastating. The United States has initiated almost half of the 117 WTO challenges for the period of 1995 through 2000.

It is likely the group will incorporate the NAFTA Chapter 11 Agreement which allows private investors to directly challenge a government policy perceived to be a barrier. Under the WTO the government challenges a law or practice on behalf of a private company, and the harsher settlement process of the WTO noted above.

Take Action

Attend a teach-in to hear local speakers talk about this and other issues and find out what you can do! **Thursday, April 19th at Olympia High School Performing Arts Center at 7pm.**

Spread the word with family, friends and other groups of which you might be a part.

Contact members of Congress to see what they might know, if anything, about the FTAA and express your opposition to this agreement.

Write a letter to the local newspaper.

Learn More. The following web sites provide a wealth of information on FTAA: www.tradewatch.org and www.lbbs.org/NETTOPnoanimation.html ◆

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity:
The Way It Is

Rev. Jeanne Howell

In a way, it doesn't really matter how I got here; the needs on arrival are the same: accommodation that makes employment possible. In a way though, it does matter, because what got me here is disabling others, too, and doing so faster than any thing else in the world today. I was poisoned by everyday toxic chemicals, and thereby developed severe multiple chemical sensitivities. The only sure treatment is avoidance of toxic chemicals. Nowadays. Right!

Workplace accommodation for those of us with MCS would involve honest elimination of toxins: in the workspace, and on co-workers —starting with fragrances.

I've been living with MCS and its oft attendant poverty for years. By now, just keeping myself presentable is challenging: trying not to appear as poor as I really am (ala never let 'em see you sweat or look like a street person). Yesterday my glasses broke: can I find a freebie fix? I'm wearing them with the lenses held on with lots of scotch tape. My teeth need work, I have to be very careful chewing to avoid going through the roof in public —which is so uncool. And we do so cling to our dignity —and to tenuous faith we deserve it.

That is the challenge, of course, for so many of us: to believe somehow that we are still worthy persons, and that life is still worth living, once we don't have a profitable work role. If we succeed, the experience can propel us beyond living by the dictates of consumerism and a market driven economy, and into deeper personal and spiritual awareness. I.e, suffering can indeed make us better people. By now though, some of us feel we're about as good as we can stand.

Like many disabled by MCS, I was the hard working professional. I hold two masters degrees. I'm an ordained Presbyterian pastor; but now churches make me sick. The air in Sunday morning churches is a toxic miasma. So I work gratis, posting weekly services online for others worldwide who are also excluded from their churches by toxic chemicals used and worn therein.

Most disabled people, including those with MCS would like the dignity of work in their fields. Workplace accommodation for those of us with MCS would involve honest elimination of toxins: in the workspace, and on co-workers — starting with fragrances.

Although more and more people are getting sick and unemployed from ambient toxins, there's little accommodation. The body count usually has to get pretty deep before society catches on to its own endangerment, and makes changes. The frog in the pot analogy comes to mind. Place a frog in a pot of tepid water, increase the heat very gradually, and by the time the water is boiling, the frog will still be sitting there — having waited too long to jump.

Our society still isn't jumping.

Many of us with MCS worked hard to enter careers from which we are now not only barred, but barred without access to disability benefits, thanks to organized chemical interests bankrolling the idea that MCS is "controversial." So for lack of options, we confront survival with real terror at times.

The longer it goes, the older it gets.

Over time I've gotten pretty good, as freebie MCS advisors go, at comfort and counsel for other desperate souls; those facing the destitution and isolation common with really severe MCS. But being able to give comfort and sound counsel does not mean I seamlessly embody either. I'm pretty scared most of the time. Lots of head banging, trying to imagine how to make money, so as to achieve, and keep, independence. Dignity. Some kind of life, too?

I keep thinking about that frog in the pot. Will society jump in time to help us? To save itself? How high must the body count rise to over rule the expensive, corporate driven disinformation campaigns currently shaping public opinion on environmental chemicals? They're like those tobacco company campaigns, loudly assuring us cigarettes were safe —only MUCH more effective.

Legions like me, still sick and unemployed, wonder how long.

End of sermon. Must be the cold. I'm sitting outside in the "brisk" weather, on a bench in a deserted road-side park skirting Capitol Lake (think man-made pond) in downtown Olympia, Washington. The coffee hang out where I write (free refills) doesn't open for awhile. I sit here with stiff fingers and hope that by just hanging on and remaining visible, this plight I share with so many will prove part of answered prayer in progress. I dearly hope.

Bridges Church "for those unable to attend place-specific worship" is online at http://www.bridgeschurch.com. ◆

MCS Awareness Week - May 7-13

Chemicals Can Cripple

Toxic chemicals are in the products we use, the clothes we wear, the foods we eat, and in the air we breathe at work. CHEMICALLY INDUCED REACTIONS CAN INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO: Headaches, flu-like symptoms, asthma or other breathing problems, dizziness, mental confusion, fatigue, depression, short-and-long term memory loss, learning disabilities, persistent infections, seizure disorders, ear, nose and throat problems, food allergies, persistent skin rashes, visual disturbances, cardiovascular irregularities.

Treatment Consists of Avoidance of Toxic Chemicals.

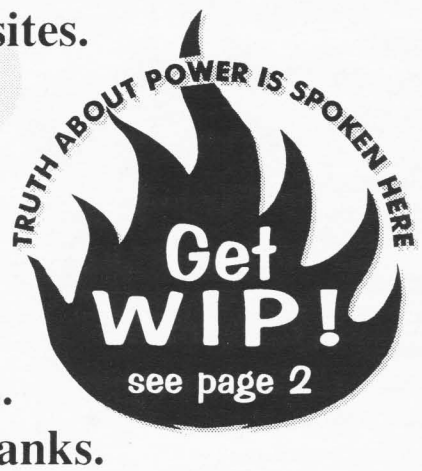
THE PROGNOSIS DEPENDS ON how early in the disease process the diagnosis is made and treatment is started. EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT yields an excellent prognosis. Although the patient usually remains chemically sensitive, symptoms often can be controlled. LATE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT often results in irreversible, fixed, end-organ disease and progressive spreading. It is an Illness with No Known Cure

For more information:
AWARENESS 2000
http://ncchem.com/aware
(Posters Available for Printing)
E-mail: infchoice2@webtv.net

Works In Progress is a 10-year old alternative newspaper in Olympia & Thurston County. WIP challenges the corporate media by remaining committed to confronting oppression and encouraging action around issues of economic, social, and environmental justice.

WIP is not a 501C3 nonprofit. WIP does not pay any of its workers, because we don't have a means to. We are 10 to 20 volunteers that do everything from collect and write articles, do layout, paste-up, sell advertising, proofread, distribute, make mailing labels, fold & stamp issues for mailing, and replenish distribution sites.

Please consider that each issue costs roughly 500^{00} to produce. WIP also mails 20 free subscriptions to incarcerated people and has other bills to pay such as for toner cartridges, disks, gas money, paper, PO Box rental, etc. Please donate money if you support alternative media, our mission, or the paper you hold in your hands. Thanks.



In The Movies

Amy Levinson

This is part of a series focusing on herpes, written for Henderson-Morley, a British STD research and development firm.

Walk into many video rental places and you may see a black sheet partitioning off a back room, where a nether region of steamy sex awaits beyond. The purveyors of this realm are adult film companies, out to peddle some skin to your tender eyes, ears and brain. Whether you think porn films are neutral, a positive way to express and see sexuality, or exploitative and immoral, the problem is, those too-perfectly formed porn stars are real people, with real problems, just like the rest of us, and herpes is one of them.

Like other people who make their living in the sex industry, many film stars consider their job a way of life. It pays the bills, and can offer relative autonomy, certainly more than being someone's secretary. That is the up side. Jade, who has worked in the industry in Europe for five years, describes another aspect of the work, saying, "I never felt pretty before I started doing sex work. It raised my self-esteem and gave me confidence. Until, I got herpes, that is." That's the down-side, anyone who has worked in the industry can tell you: "What goes around comes around." Sexually transmitted diseases are prevalent in the adult film community, as in the mainstream population. Yet, in this era of HIV/AIDS, porn stars are well aware of the need to protect themselves.

Surprisingly, people who work in X-films may be better protected from STDs than the rest of us. Porn legend, actress and producer, Sharon Mitchell, is one of the reasons why this is so. Mitch, as she is known as, has worked tirelessly to raise the industry's standards when it comes to STD education and prevention, as co-founder of the non-profit Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation (AIM), in Los Angeles, California. After a career spanning over 150 porn movie appearances, Mitch is now intimately involved in developing protocols and policies that are standard-setting in the adult film industry through the vehicle of AIM.

AIM's clinic sees a large portion of the adult film community, in between 500 and 700 adult industry workers a month take advantage of the testing and education services offered there. Almost all of the bigger film outfits have running accounts with AIM. In return they receive on-set seminars, counseling, prevention and testing of all the actors/actresses. AIM also maintains an industry database, which provides a general medical records clearing-house for companies and crew members of X-rated films. AIM estimates that over 70 percent of adult film stars have herpes. Of those, only 20 percent are what Mitch calls, "active outbreakers." A good portion of this sub-group "knows when they are prone to an outbreak, knows about clinical shedding, and refuse to book jobs during these times."

Condom use in X-rated films range from spotty to pretty decent, mainly depending on the attitude of the producer. Candida Royalle, an ex-star who has run her own film production outfit, Femme Productions, since 1980, says that all her actors and actresses are required to have STD testing before shooting in her films. She also encourages, "safer sex," in her productions. Not all film producers are as keen to sympathize with their workers. Nancy, a mother of three now married to a NFL player, worked in X movies for two years. At a self-described "naive" age 17, she remembers walking onto the set of her first movie and the male costar had obvious herpes sores. She refused to do the scene and ended up walking off after "hard pressure from the producer." The producer wisely rethought his stance and provided her a different co-star the next day. During Nancy's stint in the movies she received STD testing every three months.

There are many reasons that draw women to the sex industry, and to porn work. Whether it is a straight financial need, lack of academic skills or training, troubled upbringing, or a yearning for an alternative lifestyle, when a diagnosis of herpes is made, it can have long-lasting and career-ending severe effects. An active outbreak puts adult film workers out of work, with resulting financial impacts. Jade, living in Europe, was what she described as "100 percent conscientious," about demanding condom use of her partners, it was "not negotiable." She says of her career: "My work contained everything I needed, it was a way of life. I was financially and emotionally independent, and could work when and where I chose. And it certainly was not boring." But protection methods themselves may not be 100 hundred percent. Three and a half years years into her career, she was diagnosed with herpes. Her response? "I was devastated, it jeopardized my lifestyle on so many levels."

The polemics of modern day moralists stigmatize sex workers, and their sisters and brothers in the adult film industry while ignoring the societal demand for pornography, and the concerns of the workers within these industries.

In the case of Jade, she recalls the transformation wrought in her life by herpes. "One terrible night," she felt incredible pain and realized that she had open sores in the genital area. Where she lives, herpes is an "ignored" STD, and, as such, is not a standard part of the medical discourse. That, even though it is estimated that "there is an 80 percent seroprevalence of herpes, which is probably tested from streetwalkers." Without a solid diagnosis from her general practitioner, who sent her home with antibiotics, she only learned exactly what she had by reading through a brochure she had picked up from a STD clinic. At that point, Jade realized the enormity of what she was facing; people who work in the sex industry must be healthy. She remembers feeling that "my health, income, and body" all were in jeopardy, although she hoped to work in between outbreaks. Jade was grasping at straws, for her outbreaks were continual, and she gave up after a year, moving into the health care industry.

Nancy, now supported by her pro-football playing husband, worked in a variety of different jobs within the sex industry, but preferred adult film work, even though STD rates are high. She says, "Adult film workers actually operate in a safer environment than other sex workers. In the private biz (escorts, prostitutes), you are exposed to complete strangers. In the film industry most people have been tested routinely, and the producers want reports from doctors. It is just safer."

Jade feels that that sex workers are unfairly blamed for the transmission of herpes and STD's and feels that it is a two-way street: "People involved in the sex industry in any aspect, whether they are a customer or a worker, needs to take responsibility for protection." A unique French prevention program also looked at "the client", or video viewer, as the target of STD education. Designed in 1998, The Ministry of Public Health and the French Committee for Health Education commissioned five erotic film shorts, each portraying a different sexual practice using safe-sex methodology. The organizations are in the process of measuring the public health impact of the program. Another unique program, this one aimed at sex workers, was created in 1993 in Brazil. Venus Fire, as it was called, used a 'fiction format to speak out about STD prevention by eroticizing condom use." The video was released on World AIDS Day, in 1992, and was favorably received, lending itself well to raising the measure of public debate around this largely ignored issue. The program designers stressed that other prevention campaigns could benefit from using more creative methods of information dissemination, like Venus Fire, to "call attention to and catalyze change favoring prevention."

With the help and services of the Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation, many X-rated film outfits are taking responsibility within the industry. AIM counselors and practitioners are hired to go out to location shoots and test the whole cast. After screening the cast, their protocol is to premedicate prophylactically anyone who tests positive for herpes, as well as offer counseling. AIM counseling includes a focus on prevention. This includes showing people how to do a differential diagnosis of herpes, ruling out other factors. For herpes, counselors show the cast how to tell the difference between herpes, shaving rashes and HPV. Mitch notes that "prevention education is the key, the more information people receive, they better." AIM's trinity in the fight against STD's is "testing, treating and prevention education."

The polemics of modern day moralists stigmatize sex workers, and their sisters and brothers in the adult film industry while ignoring the societal demand for pornography, and the concerns of the workers within these industries. Placing blame for the global rise of STD's on sex workers does nothing in addressing the real health-care needs of women and men in the industry, many low-income, and many more parents. The herpes pandemic in the industry may continue unchecked if not offset by unique organizations like AIM, and creative international government programs whose testing and prevention messages recognize the all-too human faces on those hot bods.

Links:

Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation
http//:www.aim-med.org ◆

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Witnessing the Paradox-
A Review of Helen Garvy's *Rebels With a Cause*

Ron Jacobs

I recently watched the just-released documentary *Rebels With a Cause.* This is an informative and concise visual history of the largest (mostly) white radical student organization in the 1960s-the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Given the historical importance of the group, it is surprising that only now is there such a document. Fortunately, it is worth the wait. The organization's story is told via a compelling collage of film clips from the time, voiceover narrative, and recent interviews with several former SDS members -- many of them women, both from the national leadership and other less known local members. The film is a personal odyssey for the director and former SDS member, Helen Garvy, as well. The interviews are the most informative and refreshing segments of the documentary, while the narrative and film clips serve as an effective vehicle for substantiating the interviewees' recollections and comments. Perhaps the most refreshing aspect of all, as regards the interviews, is that none of those interviewed regretted their participation in the organization and only regretted that SDS was unable to do more to end racism and the war in Vietnam.

The film is constructed chronologically, tracing the organization's history from its beginnings in the hearts and minds of Fifties teenagers in the United States watching African-Americans in America's South being beaten in their struggle for freedom to its eventual disintegration into small alienated sects by the early Seventies. Interspersed between photos and video footage of meetings and rallies, the organization's early philosophy of participatory democracy as put forth in the 1962 Port Huron Statement is explained by Tom Hayden, Alan Haber, and other founding members. The group's early relationship with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the pioneering student organization in the fight against U.S. apartheid, is also explained. This relationship, while tenuous at times, evolved from an early SDS identification of racism as the fundamental problem in American society-a perspective shared by SNCC. It was this focus on racism which one could argue led the later leadership to identify deeply with the Black Panther Party.

SDS applied its philosophy of participatory democracy when it formed small groups known as the Educational and Research Projects (ERAP) that went into northern urban neighborhoods in cities like Newark, New Jersey and Cleveland, Ohio to organize working people of all races around neighborhood demands. Simultaneously, the limitations of this form of democracy became apparent. Something else that became apparent to the women was that, in many ways, they were replicating the very same roles women played in mainstream society. The first public signs of this recognition appeared in the SDS newpaper *New Left Notes* in January 1967 when Jane Adams published an article titled "On Equality for Women." This piece vocalized the thoughts of many SDS women who had been hesitant, for whatever reason, to express the growing sense that they were appreciated more for their secretarial skills than their political and organizational knowledge and abilities. That revelation was the beginning of their journey towards liberation and the cause of some dissension within the ranks. Another lesson learned during this period that would guide SDS's future analysis was the fundamental role economics played in racial and gender discrimination in the United States. The experiences gained during this community organizing phase of SDS proved valuable, especially in the wake of JFK's murder, LBJ's election and the subsequent expansion of U. S. involvement in the war in Vietnam.

Some would argue that this period was SDS's finest hour. They were the first organization to hold a national rally against the war and, as every interviewee in the film who is asked tells the viewer, the organization was never the same after the April 1965 rally in Washington, D.C..

Rebels With a Cause *supplies a welcome antidote to the current mainstream revisionist telling of Sixties history -- a retelling that has Bill and Hillary Clinton as the "best" of that generation.*

For the first time, SDS was no longer a group of people where everyone knew each other. Instead, it was on its way to becoming the largest radical student group in the country. The antiwar rally is memorable for its size (over 25,000) and SDS president Paul Potter's speech that went beyond previous analyses and claimed that the war was not an aberration but was essential to the system's survival. The dimension that time provides allows us to see Potter's words as a natural development as radicals developed a deeper understanding of the system's fundamental nature, but in 1965 the claim that America was fighting a war for imperial reasons that had nothing to do with freedom or democracy was revolutionary. The 1965 demonstration was the only national protest against the war ever called by SDS. The primary reason for the singularity of this event was because the organization was intent on maintaining a multi-issue approach. The refusal to become solely an antiwar organization created space for a greater development of their anti-capitalist perspective. However, despite its stated desire not to become a single issue group, the SDS position against the war is what spurred its phenomenal growth between 1965 and 1968 -- eventually over 100,000 young Americans considered themselves members. Perhaps the most compelling story told in the film by those who joined SDS during this period is the one from future SDS president Carl Oglesby. He was a researcher at Bendix Corporation involved in a project designed to measure what size of raindrops (or, as Bendix termed them: particulate mist) fell deepest into the rainforest. As he soon discovered, the real purpose of the research was to determine how to cover the maximum amount of Vietnamese jungle with defoliants like Agent Orange. After discovering this, Oglesby quit his job at Bendix and became a full-time SDS organizer against the war, traveling from campus to campus with little or no money and spreading the word.

Over the next couple of years, the organization's numbers grew exponentially, with many members coming from the America's heartland, like much of the original core. Old-timers used the organizing practices they had learned in the South and during the group's community organizing phase a couple years earlier. This time around the issues involved university collusion in the war machine in the form of research or ROTC, and the draft. As frustration grew with the ever expanding war, protests became more militant-a trend which some believe led to the organization's eventual destruction. By 1968 the tactics had shifted from "protest to resistance" and the stakes had risen considerably higher, inspired in part by a week of anti-draft protests in Oakland, CA. in late 1967 designed to prevent the induction center there from opening. April 1968 saw the takeover of Columbia University and a new breed of radical, typified in many people's minds by SDS member Mark Rudd (who is not in the film), whose image was splashed across the world via a LIFE magazine photo of him sitting in the university president's chair smoking a cigar. The effectiveness of the Columbia takeover convinced most of the SDS leadership that actions like the takeover were much more effective organizing tools than less confrontational forms like pickets, rallies, and teach-ins. Despite this growing sentiment, the group continued organizing young people for planned peaceful protests in Chicago at the Democratic Convention that August. The original focus of this organizing were those youths working for the peace candidates Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy.

By the time of the convention, however, Kennedy was dead and McCarthy had been rendered politically impotent by the Democratic party leadership. In addition, the city of Chicago had refused to grant all permits but one to groups planning protests during Convention week. The stage was set. By week's end, the police had rioted, attacking young people of all persuasions, and convincing the rest of the SDS leadership that peaceful protest was not only ineffectual, it was pointless.

The macho revolutionary style eventually became the standard among SDS leadership with both women and men. By 1969, it had also turned many of SDS's adherents away from the organization towards other less dangerous forms of protest. Others, meanwhile drifted towards the antics of the politically-inclined counterculture as exemplified by the Yippies. The remainder of the organization, meanwhile, began embracing various strains of Marxist-Leninist dogma while also finding themselves infiltrated by a small but powerful Maoist sect known as the Progressive Labor Party. The desperation felt at the time led many concerned radicals to look elsewhere for easy answers. Usually, this meant adopting other doctrines which may have made sense in their country of origin, but in retrospect made little sense in the United States of the late Sixties and early Seventies.

Unlike many Sixties flashbacks, there is very little glossing over of the group's mistakes, such as the leadership's turn towards armed struggle in 1969-1970 in the form of the Weatherman/Weather Underground Organization.

Just as importantly, the film discusses the disintegration of SDS in a context that acknowledges the mistakes of sectarianism and terrorism while simultaneously expressing the anger at (and frustration with) the perceived lack of progress in the struggle against racism and the war that led to those two trends becoming the dominant trends of the dwindling membership. Once again, the dimension that time provides allows the filmmaker, her subjects, and the viewer to follow the logic of the progression that the organization took.

Additionally, the film addresses the role the government counterintelligence operation known as COINTELPRO played in the unmaking of SDS and other New Left groups. In recent years there has been a failure among certain historians to seriously deal with the effects of COINTELPRO on the radical movements of the 1960s, despite the revelations concerning that operation's unconstitutionality that eventually freed, among others, the former Black Panthers Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt and Dhoruba bin Wahad. As Bernardine Dohrn and Carl Oglesby remind the viewer, although the attacks by law enforcement on the Black Panther Party and other non-white organizations were apparent to white radicals, the infiltration and disruption of predominantly white organizations like SDS was not taken seriously among many activists, even after the police riots at the Chicago Democratic convention in 1968 and the subsequent indictments of the eight radicals known as the Chicago Conspiracy on a gamut of federal charges. The presence of so many female interviewees in the film provide the necessary importance to the role women played in SDS and the movement at large. At the same time, their discussion of the emotional and intellectual conflicts they experienced during their time in the organization give depth to a story that is more than a chronology of protest. Most importantly, this film goes a long way towards filling in the blanks regarding the essential participation of women in the movement for social justice and against war in which SDS was a primary player. The presence of some of the group's most intelligent and eloquent spokespeople (Dohrn, Casey Hayden, Cathy Wilkerson, Carolyn Craven, among others) certainly enhances the effort.

If the film has a drawback, it is that its length is too short to provide a more detailed history. Despite this, the director, Helen Garvy, has done a fine job putting this film together. The style and content are accessible, agreeably done, and, as noted before, refreshingly unapologetic. *Rebels With a Cause* supplies a welcome antidote to the current mainstream revisionist telling of Sixties history -- a retelling that has Bill and Hillary Clinton as the "best" of that generation. This documentary is appropriate to the university and high school classroom, as well as the big screen. I hope it gets the large audience that it deserves and that this country needs. ◆

One Veteran's Retrospective

Dave Zink

The following was my contribution to the compendium of veteran's retrospectives published by the Department of Ecology on its employee's electronic Bulletin Board to commemorate Veteran's Day.

I was born and raised in the boundary waters country near where the State of Minnesota, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba meet in the Lake of the Woods. After graduating from the University of Winnipeg, I was ready for a warmer climate, so I headed South. I submitted resumes to agencies in Louisiana & East Texas, then worked on a ranch near Baton Rouge while waiting for responses.

I soon grew tired of hearing the same old excuses that, while I indeed had a good degree and fine transcript - sorry, they were looking for somebody with more experience. Clearly, i needed some on-the-job experience!

To make a long story shorter, I signed up for the U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences course in Environmental Sciences in 1977 in San Antonio. Boot camp was at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (springtime in the Ozarks is beautiful!). After graduating from the advanced intensive course in Environmental Health at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, i served in the Medical Services Corps at Fort Lewis, WA (227th Medical Detachment, a rapid deployment unit), Fort Ord, Cal (Preventive Medicine Dept. Silas B. Hays Hospital); Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Frankfurt, Germany; Pusan, Korea (5th Preventive Medicine Unit); and finally Fort Clayton & the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. In 1984, sugar diabetes & a medical discharge brought my military career to an end.

Life in the Army was many things. A fantastic night chorus of frogs in the lush steamy jungles of Panama, a frosty dawn on a snowy German hilltop, and the hot desert wind blasting my face with stinging sand. A great multi-level education, and a journey toward enlightenment. So many memories. Because of my varied job (which ran the gamut from working on vaccination teams to teaching classes on field sanitation to doing water-quality lab work), and some unforgettable people i met and worked with, i loved this life.

I wasn't the kind of GI that liked to hang around the barracks or the Club, watch TV and play cards. Or, go out to the pub, get blitzed, & then act arrogantly toward the locals. This was a stupid, senseless, and BORING way to spend free time. Wherever i went, at every opportunity, i would be out there hiking, exploring, or working with the Koreans, Panamanians, and Germans, wearing out my Berlitz manual in the process. I usually got lucky and would find somebody that wanted to practice his or her English.

I got into some interesting discussions with courageous local environmental & political activists, had some heart-pounding adventures, and made some memorable friendships. In the process, i would get to see things from their viewpoint. The military gave me the chance to shatter some illusions and grow through the experience. I went into the Army as a pretty conservative, if not red-neck, kind of guy. Seeing first-hand how the U.S. military was being misused to suppress democracy, strengthen imperialism, and foul up the environment around the world, forced me to come to grips with reality.

Seeing first-hand how the U.S. military was being misused to suppress democracy, strengthen imperialism, and foul up the environment around the world, forced me to come to grips with reality.

True, the military has a ready supply of shallow jerks. It was no hotbed of radicalism. But i also got to know some clear-thinking, progressive-minded men and women who helped develop my understanding regarding the system of organized crime known as capitalism. People i consider true patriots, that would later go on to help build grassroots revolutionary efforts.

Imperialism is no big mystery. It's simply when a corporation exploits labor and resources in a foreign country, diverts foreign aid into the hands of dictatorial governments that suppress local labor and peasant organizations, and then uses the military to back up its business interests at taxpayer expense. This mis-use of the military is one of the worst forms of corporate welfare for the rich. We're wasting billions of dollars, and the lives of our youth on this long-term boondoggle - money that could be used to address real needs.

The growing power of organizations like the World Bank and the corporate-dominated World Trade Organization is speeding up the process of corporate globalization. Capital is more mobile than ever, closing factories in America at the drop of a hat and exporting jobs to sweatshops abroad. The ruling class of this New World Order has grown fantastically wealthy through its policies of environmental terrorism and destruction of indigenous peoples around the world, and the "third-worldization" of America. Our democracy is being corrupted into a de-facto oligarchy that's sucking the lifeblood from our country.

The same companies that brought us the Persian Gulf War are now itching to get their hands on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Trans-National Corporations aren't loyal to any flag. Nothing is sacred to them except their profits.

Ready for a repeat of Viet Nam? Colombia, with its grassroots left-wing insurgency, and Venezuela, with its new progressive government, could well be the next quagmire, and spill over into Ecuador and Peru. Sometimes the magnitude of the work we on the Left have to do is daunting. But there are many worthwhile projects we can do locally. One key project, in my opinion, is to help KAOS Radio boost its signal strength to the point where it can reach "Lima Charley" (loud and clear) into the barracks and workplaces of Fort Lewis and Machord Air Force Base. This will help strengthen progressives in uniform, help them overcome isolation (it can feel very lonely sometimes when you're out there ahead of the pack), build alliances with local activists, and build the movements that will be crucial in the struggles that lie ahead.

The proud and honorable tradition of defending our country with dignity and patriotism is cynically squandered for multinational corporate profit. Unless people - in uniform and out - start hearing the true call of Duty, Honor, and Country, waking up and taking concerted, appropriate action to dis-empower the multinationals, things will just get worse. The stakes are high. Help reclaim the Stars and Stripes for the People. Educate, agitate, and organize! ◆

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"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

Letters, Briefs, cont.

ten years Michael moved very close to her through sitting on the NFCB Board of Directors, eventually becoming Chairman of the Board. He also followed Lynn to her "friends" at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), and sat with her on two powerful committees charged with doling out money to stations around the country.

Michael supported Lynn's agenda of mainstreaming and corporatizing Community Radio for many years. In fact, when Lynn's husband, David LePage, brought his "Healthy Station Project" recommendations to KAOS, on behalf of the NFCB and CPB (in 1991), Huntsberger championed his cause, and continued to do so for many years after. Juli Kelen? She always supported it ,too.

*When I spoke about "a corrupt patronage system that creates company spies and union-busters, as well as controlled volunteers", I was not talking specifically about KAOS, but rather about Community Radio as a whole, and about Pacifica in particular.

I will note though that business and pleasure do meet in the "New KAOS". For example, Neva Reece is not the only programmer to rely on KAOS to help promote their business ventures. In return, KAOS gets "gifts" from them. This muddies the waters significantly.

Economic "Development" at KAOS is certainly open to questions and debate. My understanding is that most of the Station's funding comes from student fees (S&A funds). This, I think, represents about $120,000, or 60% of the budget. Of the rest, I have heard that about 20% comes from a CPB grant, and about 20% from subscribers.

One has to question the whole trend toward "underwriting" (i.e. advertising), be it local or corporate. People who wanted to cover labor issues on KAOS already told me they were nixed pre-emptively by Management, due to concerns about offending "sponsors"!

Of course, there's always the big CPB grants available if a station can employ 5 staffpeople, AND get its listener-ship scores high enough. Running many hours of certain canned shows might raise Arbitron ratings, but would increased reliance on NPR, Putumayo, or PRI be compatible with real community radio?

To keep "the Community" at the center of our community radio, we need openness and full disclosure. Transparency about the budget at KAOS- where the money comes from, and where it goes, is essential.

Equally so, we need clarity about the process of hiring a new station manager. Why is it taking so long? Who are the candidates? Which candidates were rejected, and why? How much did each candidate value grassroots, non-corporate radio?

If we are to avoid getting some NPR-clone foisted upon us in the middle of Summer, we need honest and complete answers!

Instead of answers, it seems that what we get is more and more rhetoric and PR. "Diversity" and "Free Speech" are the latest KAOS buzz-words. If KAOS Management really valued cultural diversity, there would be a lot more non-white programmers on the air!

Here's a question: Is White People's portrayal of the cultures of People of Color, all that there is to cultural diversity?

As for "Free Speech", if the ruling clique really valued Free Speech, you'd think at least one of them would have spoken up for reinstating me to the air! So, instead of real community radio, which by definition includes an open and honest democratic process, we get silence and "spin". We deserve better.

Never mind that the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is supposed to guarantee citizens freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the freedom to criticize government officials. High-ranking legal authorities have ruled that State-controlled media like KAOS can not inhibit their staff, volunteer or paid, from criticizing the Government (including college officials and staff).

Since I have been subject to prior restraint (i.e. censorship), fired, and banned, for expressing points of view unpopular with the KAOS and Evergreen Administration, I find myself in the strange position of being criticized by them for challenging THEIR illegal activities! I do not agree with their characterization that I am some kind of malevolent troublemaker, just because I spoke out.

I came to KAOS in 1984, as an already committed community radio volunteer. At that time, I began volunteering daily at KAOS, receiving no pay or other compensation. I now find my termination and banishment being justified by individuals with much less history in community radio than I; individuals who say that their management-clique IS community radio, but I am not.

This is exactly the same problem we find within Pacifica- the equating of OUR community radio with the management group currently in power. Anyone who dares to question or oppose their policies is somehow an enemy of this same Community Radio.

The roots of the problem go back more than a decade, to the beginning of Lynn Chadwick's reign at the NFCB. The ideology promoted by Chadwick and her allies marches under the banners of "Professionalization" and "Audience-Building". In reality, the agenda is one of corporate methodology, and indeed, actual corporate alliances. Hierarchical control by management, and the banishment and firing of principled individuals who speak out, are essential to this process.

So why speak out for a non-commercial, community-controlled, free-speech radio? The other side has lots more money and political backing; they have lots of law and government behind them. Why struggle?

Those of us who want something better than corporate methodology, much less corporate-sponsorship, have before us the example of the Grassroots Radio Coalition (GRC). The GRC consists of individuals and stations who stood up to the NFCB and its dubious "Healthy Station" agenda. They have consistently spoken out for real Community Radio: i.e. public-access, open financial records, community-based decision-making, real cultural diversity, radical perspectives, and free speech. These are real people, media activists from around the country, and they are available to link forces with us, if we need them.

KAOS IS at a cross-roads, it is completely up to us what happens next.

Austin Kelley

KAOS Insider

Though I probably won't be taken seriously since I work for the "corporate devil" a.k.a. commercial radio I feel I must speak up on KAOS' behalf! Hard times have hit us all and KAOS has been hit & kicked repeatedly the last few years and now when they need our support most, well...

It seems to me (and I have played many roles at KAOS and within the Olympia community) that Austin Kelley has a personal vendetta against KAOS. I know he is no friend of mine or community radio for that matter. In his recent article Austin claims KAOS is changing and becoming more like NPR or perhaps commercial radio due to PSA's? Austin finds fault with the satellite programming that KAOS provides and yet when they try and provide an ALTERNATIVE to the alternative (ie. FREE SPEECH RADIO) Austin finds fault with this as well. Can they do nothing right in his ears?

As an insider to commercial radio, let me tell you that things are done very differently at KAOS and 80% of air time at KAOS is possessed by VOLUNTEERS who are as diverse and committed as our community. The other 20% of proramming is dedicated to Public Affairs Programs and Alternative News. I believe all the shows listed by Austin are played on KPLU and KAOS is NOT (to my knowledge) even considering airing ANY of these. What KAOS does choose to air (at least what I've heard lately) is quality programming that enlightens and teaches us all should we choose to listen. I recently heard a 'Making Contact' "archived edition" about 'Growing Up Gay' in America that brought tears to my eyes. From 'This Way Out' to 'Counterspin' to 'Democracy Now' (which I do agree may be in danger~ but NOT because KAOS hasn't supported it!) KAOS provides through THEIR public affairs programming a true alternative and gives voice to SO MANY in our community. This is KAOS' mission, always has been and hopefully always will be.

Thanks for reading — oh and Austin —GET OVER IT! Amy Goodman you're not.

Ruth M. Brownstein

KAOS Programmer 1

I'm looking for more objective, less frenzied dialogue about KAOS radio in the WIP pages. Let's talk about making KAOS better-it's a unique resource that most communities, large or small, do not have. Tearing it apart hurts everyone. As a KAOS programmer for the past seven years, I've never been "mandated" to play anything except the underwriting provided by local businesses.

I break from music on my show a few times per hour to provide information listeners have shown they care about, like the Community Billboard, events, song titles and artists. Breaks are important to establish a one-to-one relationship with the audience. Personally, I don't care to hear an announcer recap what's been played for the last 60 minutes -- that many details are not easily digested. A marathon stretch of music is potentially great music, but it's lousy radio.

Also, I'm on the KAOS Programming Committee. These weekly meetings are not held in secrecy. The committee, which includes KAOS management, has been outraged by a number of the Pacifica Foundation's actions. KAOS has presented more, not less, info about this dispute since it resurfaced in 1999. To link KAOS and the apparent agenda of Pacifica management is unfair, to put it mildly. This is a negative analysis posing as "progressive" thought.

-J.J. Syrja

(Continued next page)

Hear from Brazil's The Landless Workers Movement

Thursday, April 12th

from noon to 1:30 pm
The Evergreen State College, Library Lobby

From 7-9 pm
Traditions Fair Trade Cafe
300 5th Ave. Downtown Olympia

The Labor Education Center, several academic programs and student organizations at The Evergreen State College are inviting you to come to two public events to hear Luis Antonio Pasquetti and Maria Gorete de Souza, two dynamic speakers from the Landless Workers Movement (MST). The MST is of the most important militant grassroots movement in Latin America in organizing landless peasants to occupy, secure and produce the land. In a country where less than 3 percent of the population owns two thirds of all arable land, the organizations has directly helped 1.7 million peasants to have access to land since its foundation in 1985.

How did the MST accomplish so much with so little? Come and learn more.

Maria Gorete de Sousa is a daughter of rural workers. She was born in the arid northeastern state of Piau-, one of the poorest regions of Brazil. She started her social activism in the Ecclesiastical Base Communities (CEB), as a pastoral worker and town commissioner. She has an education degree and has been working with the MST since 1986, in its organizing, training and capacity building programs, as well as leading literacy campaigns for youth and adults. At the moment, Gorete is a member of the state leadership of the MST in Maranhao, and coordinates national collective training as well as working on political and literacy courses in that state.

Luis Antonio Pasquetti is the economist responsible for the MST development office and speaks about the MST and how it tallies its gains despite enormous obstacles.

Please contact Lucilene Lira Whitesell at (360) 867-5038 or whitesel@evergreen.edu

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE! SEE PAGE 2

Letters, Announcements, Etc.

KAOS Programmer 2

Editor,

As a KAOS programmer ("Spin the Globe," Fridays 6-8 p.m.), I am surprised and disappointed by your coverage of our community radio station. While you have had some informative and accurate articles, you have also published rambling letters that are riddled with misinformation. The letter in your March issue was especially disappointing. Austin Kelley was one of the first people I met when I started volunteering at KAOS and I had several great conversations with him about music, yet he seems to be out of touch with the reality of KAOS. Let me set the record straight on a few of the issues he raises.

I, too, was concerned about the meaning of the KAOS survey that was done last year, but at an open meeting last fall the surveys author explained its purpose and allayed many programmers fears. As I understand it, the survey was to determine how community members listened to KAOS and which types of programs they would like to hear more or less often. In fact, the survey was never really completed; after the controversy last fall, the second phase of the surveygathering information from student listenerswas never carried out. So I have no idea where some would see "malevolent implications."

Austin's contention that KAOS is undertaking "the gradual removal of difficult volunteers" is puzzling. I know that several programmers have been suspended in recent months, but these suspensions are for violations of legal requirements or station policies.

Comparing KAOS to KBOO is disingenuous: KBOO is in Oregons major media market with a much larger listenership and more public support. They have two paid news directors and numerous news volunteers, while KAOS currently has one part-time news volunteer and one part-time news intern. KBOO has the resources to provide daily news without Pacifica. Until Livewire Independent News begins their regular broadcast, KAOS has no such options. Furthermore, the callers I've talked to during my show have expressed concern about the Pacifica situation, but have not demanded that we completely sever our ties with them.

Perhaps the most puzzling contention is that KAOS is "corporatizing" its airwaves with "corporate-friendly PSAs [public service announcements]". KAOS encourages programmers to read PSAs during their shows as a public service, but has never mandated PSAs. The available PSAs always cover a wide range of issues and organizations, and some of the most popular ones (the ones programmers chose to play the most, based on KAOSs public files) include the following subversive organizations: Barbs Family and Friends (free holiday dinners for the community), Fellowship of Reconciliation (peace vigils), Media Island (visioning meeting), an anti-homophobia spot, and an invitation to witness salmon runs with the Stream Team.

KAOS is in a challenging position, trying to please its various constituencies: Evergreen students who provide the bulk of its funding, KAOS members, local business partners, the community, KAOS programmers, and the Evergreen Trustees who hold the stations license. With our new broadcast antenna going up this summer and increasing our coverage throughout the South Sound, we need KAOS to be known not for fabricated controversy, but for providing a unique medium for alternative news, music, and voices of the community.

Sincerely, Scott Stevens

WIP responds to the KAOS discussion:

Works in Progress is an all-volunteer group that makes decisions by consensus. Part of WIP's mission is to be a forum for community discussion, and our general policy is to accept and publish all submissions without substantially editing them. However, our editorial page is not designed to support the large volume of letters that have been submitted on this issue over the last year. At our most recent meeting we decided that we would like to support and encourage moving the KAOS/Pacifica/community radio discussion to other forums, such as a meeting of all interested parties. If any readers are interested in attending such a meeting, or helping to facilitate it, please contact <wip@olywa.net>. While WIP is not prepared to organize the meeting, we are willing to help put interested persons in touch with one another so that such a meeting can be set up.

Respectfully, WIPsters

The Olympia Free School
A Community Education Network

Community based education: Where everyone is a teacher and student

Who We Are: The Free School is what you make it. It is a networking tool for community organizations and individuals, open to anybody who wants to learn and share knowledge in a free and open environment. If you're looking to explore a topic with others, share skills, or teach others, then Free School is for you.

Meetings: every Thurs 7pm 816 Adams -- Media Island (behind the Olympia Timberland Library)

Contact:freeschool@disinfo.net or 866-8511,

Calenders available:

www.olynetwork.org/freeschool

In *Works In Progress and* at Kundalingi, Orca, Traditions, Media Island, Radio Ranch

March Free School Calendar

Know of an event or workshop for April? Call 705-8882 or send an email to freeschool@disinfo.net (* indicates previous listing for time place or contact)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FoodNotBombs 10amBread&Roses **Poetry Reading** 4pm 867-9858 **anti-FTAA** 7pm **Anarchists** 9pm	2	**ESL** 6:30-8:30 Radio Ranch **Raw Foods** 8pm **Labor Discussion** 8pm	**Parents Helping Parents** 6:30pm Family support Centr **AlternativeTeaching** 7-9pm 816 Adams	**Free School Meetings** 7pm 816 Adams **ESL** 6:30-8:30 Radio Ranch	6	7
FoodNotBombs 10amBread&Roses **anti-FTAA** 7pm **Anarchists** 9pm	9	**ESL** 6:30-8:30 Radio Ranch	**Parents Helping Parents*** **AlternativeTeaching Methods** *	**ESL** * **Free School***	**Ecodesign** TBA 13	**Free Skool** 12-2pm Media Island 816 Adams 14
FoodNotBombs 10amBread&Roses **Poetry Reading** 4pm 867-9858 **anti-FTAA** 7pm **Anarchists** 9pm	16	**ESL** * **Raw Foods*** 17	**Parents Help Parents*** **AlternativeTeaching Methods** * 18	**Free School Meetings** * **ESL** * 19	20	21
Saturday the 14th there will be a Freeskool Vegan Potluck/Organizing Meeting in Bigelow Park if sunny -- call 705-8882 to RSVP or for new location if raining. If you are interested in seeing freeskool continue please come or call if you can't come.						
FoodNotBombs 10amBread&Roses **anti-FTAA** 7pm **Anarchists** 9pm	23	**ESL** * **Astronomy** 7pm 24	**Parents Helping Parents** * **AlternativeTeaching Methods** * 25	**Free School Meetings** * **ESL** * 26	27	28
FoodNotBombs 10amBread&Roses **anti-FTAA** 7pm **Anarchists** 9pm	30					

Community Sustaining Fund

The Community Sustaining Fund (CSF) of Thurston County is pleased to announce our Spring 2001 grant funding cycle. Grant applications for environmental and social change projects are now available to groups and individuals interested in progressive community oriented activities. Grant submissions will be considered up to $1,000.

The deadline for submitting completed grant applications is Friday, April 13, 2001. In-person grant presentations to the CSF Board are required for all applicants meeting our minimum criteria and will be held on Saturday, May 5.

Grant criteria and application forms are available on request from:

* Traditions Fair Trade (5th and Water);
* Via Traditions web site: http://www.traditionsfairtrade.com;
* Writing CSF at 2103 Harrison St., NW, Suite 2715, Olympia, WA 98502.

Business Start-up

Enterprise for Equity, a non-profit group that provides low-income individuals with the training and technical assistance they need to start their own micro-businesses, is offering an innovative training program this April.

The program's goal is to provide low-income individuals with the opportunity to take an idea from a dream to a reality: to start a small business that will begin that person on the path to self-sufficiency. Possible business ideas could be anything from day-care facilities to computer repair.

Two orientation and information sessions will be held on April 3rd (11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) and on April 5th (7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.) to give information about Enterprise for Equity services, the training program, and what will be expected of participants. These sessions are free of charge and are being held at 505 4th Avenue West in the Housing Authority Building right across from Bayview Thriftway.

The Business Readiness Training will be held April 17 and April 19th 2001. The Business Planning and Management Training course will begin April 24, 2001. Participants must complete the readiness training before moving on to the next training program.

There is a 25$ fee for the Business Readiness Training. The Business Planning and Management Training course will cost $112-148$, sliding scale. Scholarships are available for both classes; no one will be turned away for lack of funds. To sign up for the class, or to find out more information, all are encouraged to call Lisa Smith at (360) 704-3375.

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.P.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

APRIL 2001 FREE

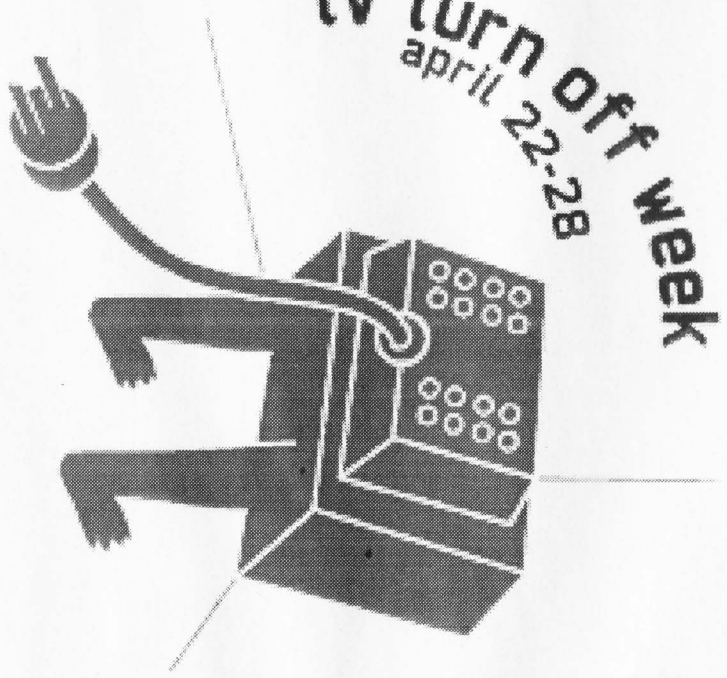
Olympia Convention Center!

Where Will The Garden Grow?

Story: page 1

photo by Tristan Baurick

— 1 —
Olympia Convention Center or Gardens? & Frankenbucks Coffee
— 4 —
Gifford Pinchot National Forest Activism
— 5 —
Bigotry 202: Schools
— 9 —
Shutdown the FTAA
— 8 —
Interview With Pacifica-Resigned Juan Gonzalez
— 12 —
Film Review
Helen Garvy's *Rebels With A Cause*



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